Theresa Williams October 20, 2010

A few years ago I worked at an establishment that helps the disabled community. I was a secretary surrounded by doctors, psychiatrists, therapist and patients with mental and physical disabilities. I had heard the “r” word before at school or with my peers, but I was shocked when I heard adults, even doctors, use that word. When you use slang terms that are really derogatory terms for certain groups of people you may not realize the impact of it. People don’t think about what the “r” word truly represents. Words can have a huge emotional impact on people and can affect their self-image and self-worth. Continued use of this word also affects the way the public views people with disabilities; the negative connotations associated with this word can hinder the social, political, and economic advancement of people with disabilities.